

CLAIMS

In the Claims:

1-23 (Cancelled)

Previously presented
24 (Amended): A microlancet device for obtaining a sample of blood or other bodily fluid through the skin of a subject, comprising;

an elongated single crystal silicon substrate having a base end and a penetration end;
a base portion formed at the base end of the silicon substrate for permitting the device to be retained during penetration and sampling; and

C
a penetration portion formed at the penetration end of the silicon substrate, terminating in a sharp point with smooth continuous cutting profile for easily piercing and penetrating the skin of the subject in order to obtain a sample of blood or other bodily fluid while inflicting minimum pain on the subject.

25 (Previously presented): The device of Claim 24, wherein the penetration portion has a thickness cross-section dimension and a width cross-section dimension, at least one of which tapers toward the penetration end to form the sharp point.

26 (Amended): The device of Claim 25, wherein the thickness cross-section dimension of the penetration portion extends from about 50 micrometers to about 250 micrometers ~~excluding the sharp point~~, and the width cross-section dimension ~~also~~ extends from about 50 micrometers to about 250 micrometers excluding the sharp point.

27 (Previously presented): The device of Claim 26, wherein the penetration end of the silicon substrate has a length of from about 1 millimeter to about 3 millimeters.

28 (Previously presented): The device of Claim 24 further comprising a silicon nitride film over at least part of the base portion.

29. (Previously presented): The device of Claim 28, wherein the silicon nitride film is about 2000 angstroms thick.

30 (Previously presented): The device of Claim 24, wherein the microlancet device is disposable.

31 (Previously presented): The device of Claim 25, wherein the width cross-section dimension of the penetration portion terminates in a chisel-shaped point at the penetration end.

32 (Previously presented): The device of Claim 24 wherein the penetration portion has a width cross-section that tapers from a larger cross-section dimension at the base end toward a smaller cross-section dimension at the penetration end.

cl 33 (Previously presented): The device of Claim 32 wherein the cross-section dimension of the penetration portion extends from about 250 micrometers to about 50 micrometers, excluding the sharp point.

34 (Previously presented): The device of Claim 24 wherein the penetration portion has a thickness cross-section dimension from about 50 micrometers to about 250 micrometers.

35 (New): The device of Claim 24 wherein the penetration portion extends laterally from the base portion in the single crystal silicon substrate.

cl 36 (New): A microlancet device for obtaining a sample of blood or other bodily fluid through the skin of a subject, comprising;

- an elongated single crystal silicon substrate having a base end and a penetration end;
- a base portion formed at the base end of the silicon substrate for permitting the device to be retained during penetration and sampling; and

- a penetration portion formed at the penetration end of the silicon substrate, extending laterally from the base portion of the silicon substrate, and terminating in a sharp point with smooth continuous cutting profile for easily piercing and penetrating the skin of the subject in

order to obtain a sample of blood or other bodily fluid while inflicting minimum pain on the subject.

37 (New): The device of Claim 36, wherein the penetration end of the silicon substrate has a length of from about 1 millimeter to about 3 millimeters.

38 (New): A microlancet device for obtaining a sample of blood or other bodily fluid through the skin of a subject, comprising;

an elongated single crystal silicon substrate having a base end and a penetration end;

a base portion formed at the base end of the silicon substrate for permitting the device to be retained during penetration and sampling; and

C² a penetration portion formed at the penetration end of the silicon substrate and terminating in a sharp point with smooth continuous cutting profile for easily piercing and penetrating the skin of the subject in order to obtain a sample of blood or other bodily fluid while inflicting minimum pain on the subject, the penetration end having a length of from about 1 millimeter to about 3 millimeters.

39 (New) The device of Claim 38, wherein the penetration portion has a thickness cross-section dimension and a width cross-section dimension, at least one of which tapers towards the penetration end to form the sharp point.

40. (New): The device of Claim 39, wherein the thickness cross-section of the penetration point extends from about 50 micrometers to about 250 micrometers, and the width cross-section dimension extends from about 50 micrometers to about 250 micrometers excluding the sharp point.

41 (New): The device of Claim 39, wherein the width cross-section dimension of the penetration point terminates in a chisel-shaped point at the penetration end.